

SENATE RESOLUTION 124  
By Haun

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colonel Daniel James Zoerb, USAF (Ret) for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's freedom and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in our armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Daniel James Zoerb, USAF (Ret.), has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United State Air Force and in society today; and

WHEREAS, Daniel James Zoerb was born in Wisconsin in 1921 and moved as a child first to Florida and, then, in 1927, to Tennessee, where his father was employed by Eastman; and

WHEREAS, following completion of his primary and secondary education, Daniel Zoerb enrolled in East Tennessee State Teachers College in Johnson City, now East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Daniel left school at the outbreak of the Second World War to enter the Flying Cadet program in the U.S. Army Air Corps; he was commissioned and rated as a pilot in February 1943; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Zoerb completed fighter training in P40 and P51 aircraft and was assigned to the Mediterranean Allied Air Force in North Africa where he joined the 52nd Fighter Group for combat; during that assignment he flew the British Spitfire in Sicily and Corsica, completing a combat tour; and

WHEREAS, Zoerb's unit was transferred to the 15th Air Force, an American command, and he began flying long range escort for B17 and B24 aircraft; during this period, he destroyed seven enemy aircraft in the air and six on the ground; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1944 he returned to the United States and was released from active duty at the war's end; he and his father operated the Johnson City airport until 1950 when he was recalled to active duty; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Zoerb was assigned to the 325th Fighter Group at McCord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Washington, where he flew the F94, the F82 and Gooney Birds; he performed an accompanied tour in Tripoli, Libya, and Rabat, Morocco; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Zoerb returned to the United States in 1954 and was assigned to the 508th Fighter Wing in Albany, Georgia, where he flew the F84F, a strategic fighter; following a tour at the Pentagon, he was assigned to the first operational Strategic Missile Wing in the Strategic Air Command at Cheyenne, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, at Cheyenne, Colonel Zoerb was in charge of crew and maintenance training; after two years, he was assigned as Chief of Missile training at the 15th Air Force HQs at March Air Force Base in California; and

WHEREAS, the requirement for Joint Service arose, and Colonel Zoerb served a hardship tour as Battle Staff Chief in CINPAC, serving under Admiral John McCain, one of the Navy's truly great flag officers; and

WHEREAS, Daniel James Zoerb retired in 1973 as a full colonel; during his distinguished career in the U. S. Air Force, he was the recipient of the Silver Star, the DFC with two oakleaf clusters, the Legion of Merit, and the Air Medal with sixteen oakleaf clusters; and

WHEREAS, the Zoerb retirement estate consists of several acres of trees and an 800 foot airstrip appropriately designated as "Zoerb International Airport"; his two homebuilt aircraft are housed at Greeneville Airport; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Zoerb is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his wife and three sons, one of whom is an Air Force Colonel, one is a Technical Representative for a photo processing company and one is a student nurse; Colonel and Mrs. Zoerb are the doting grandparents of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Col. Zoerb served his nation with the utmost valor and great ability, both in times of war and in the maintenance of peace; and

WHEREAS, Col. Zoerb performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Colonel Daniel James Zoerb, USAF (Ret) for meritorious service in the United States Air Force and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we join with those attending the Warbird Airshow in Greene County on June 17 and 18, 2000 in honoring Colonel Zoerb for his unquestioned bravery and unfailing commitment in the service of our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.